IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An aluminum-doped precipitated silica having a BET surface area of more than 300 m^2/g, wherein said aluminum-doped precipitated silica has an Al_2O_3 content of from 0.05 to 0.25% by weight, and wherein aluminum is distributed uniformly in the silica.

Claim 2 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, wherein the BET surface area is 350 to 800 m^2/g.

Claim 3 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, wherein the aluminum is in the form of Al_2O_3.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, wherein the silica is in the form of particles having an average size of less than 15 μm.

Claim 7 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, wherein the silica is in the form of particles having an average size of 5 to 12 μm.

Claim 8 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a DBP absorption of from 200 to 500 g/100 g.

Claim 9 (Original): The aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1, having a DBP absorption of from 250 to 350 g/100 g.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing aluminum-doped precipitated silica, comprising:

a) heating a mixture of water and sodium silicate at a temperature of from 70 to 86°C and adding sulfuric acid until half of the sodium silicate is neutralized; next

b) aging the mixture for a time of from 30 to 120 minutes; next

c) adjusting the pH of the mixture with sulfuric acid to a range of from 3.0 to 7.0, thereby precipitating the aluminum-doped silica; next

d) filtering the aluminum-doped silica from the mixture to form a filtercake and washing the filtercake; next

e) drying and/or grinding the washed filtercake,

wherein an aluminum salt solution is metered into the mixture at step a) and/or step c), the precipitated aluminum-doped silica has a BET surface of more than 300 m^2/g, and the aluminum is distributed uniformly in the aluminum-doped silica.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 10, wherein the aluminum salt solution is added to the mixture of water and sodium silicate in step a) of the process, prior to adding the sulfuric acid.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 10, wherein the aluminum salt solution is added continuously during step a) and/or step c).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 10, wherein the aluminum salt solution is added in step c) and prior to adding the sulfuric acid.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 10, wherein at least one or more of steps a), b), and c) are carried out with shearing.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A coating comprising the aluminum-doped precipitated silica of Claim 1.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): Paper coated with the coating of Claim 15.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): Plastic film coated with the coating of Claim 15.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): Fabric screen coated with the coating of Claim 15.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A flatting agent comprising the silica of Claim 1.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The coating of Claim 15, further comprising polyvinyl alcohol, wherein the coating has the form of a suspension having a solids content of from 10 to 30% by weight.